

Dear Sir or Ms:

I am writing to exhort you to insure that we pass significant legislation to close and correct loopholes that render our communities and families hostage to the improper and illegal use of guns.

Specifically, I support comprehensive ban on "assault-style" weapons, eliminating the sale of multi-bullet clips, as well universal background checks for those seeking to buy and license pistols, rifles and all manner of guns/weaponry. The "assault-style weapons" have no legitimate use in civilian life, and were an outgrowth of gun makers creating military-style weapons to bolster consumer sales when the market declined for guns. They pose significant threat to our families as we saw in Newtown, CT and in Manchester, CT (where Sturm, Ruger SR9 was used) as well as to law enforcement.

According to the Violence Policy Center (vpc.org), "the ATF notes that...high capacity rifles pose an enhanced threat to law enforcement, in part because of their ability to expel projectiles at velocities that are capable of penetrating the type of soft body armor typically worn by the law enforcement officers." Despite the hazard this assault weapon poses to police and the public at large, the rifle was not covered by the federal assault weapon." Yes, they penetrate soft body armor, as well as the bodies of innocent, unprotected citizens.

CT has a long history of gun safety--from led by its citizens and by responsible manufacturers. While we cannot pre-emptively identify and intersect every offender who may wreak havoc on our lives, nor can we stem the flow of traffic to this state (illegal of course), we can act to change the climate, the rules and the enforcement of gun safety in CT.

I believe that we have a responsibility to set the tone for the country. The time to act is now. Please do so, with courage, conviction and common sense.

Susan D. Cocco
Ridgefield, CT

Susan D. Cocco
Learn more about my passion by visiting the Women's Campaign School At Yale - www.wcsyale.org